

26th May, 2020

Re: International Aviation Alliance Pty Ltd – Please table at the next council meeting for consideration.

Dear Richard,

I represent the group of residents who have expressed their displeasure in the operating conditions of the Chinese flying school based in Mildura. The many concerns that we have, but are not limited to include:

1. Noise Pollution destroying our amenity, lowering property values, and destroying long term tourism,
2. Maintenance of the planes constantly flying over our homes,
3. Language barrier causing confusion over the similar names of the Mildura runway and Wentworth runway - has already caused many near misses
4. Not adhering to the social distancing laws - see those concerning learning to drive a car,
5. Constant circuits of planes practising touch downs, refusing to allow a time slot for other planes to use the runway. This has affected all commercial airlines, including the flying ambulance.
6. Flying during Public Holidays, late at night, and early on Sundays. Residents are unable to mow lawns prior to 10AM on a Sunday
7. No Public Consultation prior to implementation,
8. Lack of any environmental studies, including a Noise Pollution study, prior to implementation,
9. Large amounts of money (\$\$Millions) was promised, but we have yet to see the effects of this input. No proof that any money has been contributed to the Mildura economy at all,
10. Complicated Company structure, with links to fraudulent activity in China,
11. IAA CEO unable/ refusing to answer questions to the satisfaction of the residents
13. Many more planes and students expected, this is still in early stages.

As such, we have the following questions and requests:

We realise that some of these answers may not be the responsibility of council, but as they allowed this situation then they are responsible for sourcing answers.

1. We require a copy of the feasibility study. If one was not completed, please provide an explanation as to why.
2. We require a copy of the Environmental Study, specifying the noise pollution details. If one was not completed, please provide an explanation as to why.
3. Please advise when the public consultation meeting or communication occurred. If no public consultation occurred, please advise as to why. Adjacent land owners were not advised, please explain why this specifically did not happen.
4. The flying school planes are making multiple passes – several very low over private homes and schools. They are also practising mid-air engine starts. Please advise where we can view the maintenance records of planes, including the qualifications of those maintaining the planes.

5. How much longer do the current group of students have to complete their pilot training? When are the next group of students expected, and how will this be organised given the current travel restrictions?
6. Are the Chinese student pilots required to pass a formal English exam? If not, how are they allowed to conduct solo flights, or complete the formal qualification process?
7. How was the monetary benefit to the community calculated, and have any checks been made to ensure that this benefit has occurred?
8. Can council provide proof that all 'servicing' of the pilots, e.g. food, accommodation and other living supplies, has been undertaken within our community, as promised by the International Aviation Alliance.
9. Although Mr Clemence is asked to leave the meeting room whenever the flying school is discussed, we have great concerns regarding his Conflict of Interest. Can council please provide the Conflict of Interest rules that they follow, and confirm to the residents that there will be no other Conflicts of Interest issues between the council operations and the flying school?
10. There have been allegations in the media regarding fraudulent money being used to set up related schools. Can council be sure that this fraudulent money was not used for any of the operations in Mildura? If this money was used in Mildura, why have the council not forwarded the information to authorities?
11. Whenever any of our group have written to the various contacts concerned, they are continually being referred to other parties. The council allowed this to happen, and we believe that they are responsible for rectifying. Please nominate a council staff member that will be the primary contact for all flying school issues, and ensure that they follow up formally on all complaints that are logged.
12. Could council please provide a copy of the exemption provided by the Victorian Government to continue flying during the COVID-19 lockdown?
13. Could the council please explain why flying practises have already started in Swan Hill, when they have yet to go through proper process?
14. We are quite aggrieved that our group was immediately called racist as soon as we expressed concern. We believe that this was a tactic used to avoid dealing with the real issues. If this was not a tactic, please provide factual evidence – not here say – which this has occurred. Our group could care less about the race of the pilots – it is 100% about the various concerns listed above.
15. Please supply a copy of the original agreement between the council and the flying school.

Please note, these are only a portion of the concerns, questions and requests of the general public. There may be other groups/ businesses that are independent of us who have their own concerns.

Due to the serious nature of this topic, we request that the International Aviation Alliance Pty Ltd immediately ground all planes until all of these concerns, questions and requests have been finalised.

Christine Allen

Po Box 1896, Mildura

VIC 3502

Email: malleeonlinesolution@gmail.com